

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field”
(MATT. 13: 44).

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DISCOURSE BY APOSTLE ORSON PRATT.

DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH,
OCTOBER 26TH, 1879.

I WILL read a few passages of Scripture which will be found in the 54th Chapter of Isaiah. (The speaker then read most of the chapter referred to). Continuing, he said:

I hope that the congregation will pardon me for undertaking, three Sabbaths running, to instruct them when there are so many of our brethren—those who are ordained and filled with the spirit of truth—who would be glad, no doubt, to speak to the people; but a great many of my younger brethren, younger than I am, may perhaps have a great many opportunities after I may pass away, provided that the Lord sees proper in His wisdom to call me hence.

I feel a great pleasure in standing before a congregation of Latter-day Saints, or a mixed assembly of those who belong to the Church, and those who have not received the great message which the Church has received. It gives me great joy and great satisfaction, to speak to them in the name of the Lord, and unfold, as far as the Spirit will give me utterance, that which the Lord has said concerning His people in latter days. I had nothing upon my mind when I arose and walked into the stand, but upon opening the Bible my eyes fell upon this chapter, and I thought that I would read it—and perhaps something might occur in relation to this chapter that would be interesting in regard to the latter days, for certainly what I have read relates to future times—times that have not yet come.

“Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes,” is the exhortation of the prophet to some class of people that should dwell on the earth. If we wish to know what class of people the Prophet had reference to, read the last verse of this chapter: “This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.” It would seem, then, from the declaration given in that clause of the seventeenth verse of this chapter, that the Prophet was speaking of his servants and their heritage—that is, the heritage that his servants should occupy—that they were not to be narrowed and contracted in their feelings in regard to their inheritance, as though it were to be in a small tract or region of country. The Lord had otherwise determined, according to the words of this chapter. He intends they should inherit a great land, that they were to stretch forth the curtains of their habitations, and for fear that they would be limited in their views and contract themselves to a small region of country, the Lord says expressly, “Spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes.” Well, we are trying to do this as Latter-day Saints. When we first came here, we located this city in the month of July, 1847, some thirty-two years ago this last summer. Then it was thought by many, that had not a knowledge of prophecy, that we were too expanded in our views to lay out a city—being only a handful of pioneers—to lay out a city covering several miles of ground, when there was not yet a house built; when, comparatively, there was before us a great, dry, barren desert. It seemed almost folly to even some of the Latter-day Saints to see the surveyor with his measure line, others with their instruments of observation, getting the height of this land above the sea level—making great preparations, while we yet camped, a little handful of us, in wagons and in a few tents. It seemed folly to lay out a city covering an area of several square miles: but those who did this work were under the direction and inspiration of the Almighty. We knew that this people would become a very great people. We knew that the words of Isaiah would be fulfilled which are recorded in the sixtieth chapter: “A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation.” Now, we believed that. It was not merely an opinion such as might be formed by the enlightened judgment of the human family, but by the inspiration of that Spirit which knoweth all things, we laid out a city sufficiently large in extent to accommodate and gather together an extensive population for this inland country and desert. Have we been disappointed? Has the Lord disappointed us in our expectation? Go over the area of this whole city, over these northern wards, and western wards, and travel and traverse all the different lots and streets, and see if you find many vacant places. Is not the land generally taken up? Is it not generally occupied? Are there many vacant

lots, where there are no houses or habitations? Are there many places where there are no fruit trees, no gardens? Are there many streets where there are no ornamental trees, no water ditches? We find after we have traveled several days, and traversed nearly all the streets of the city, gone for miles each way, that all the lots, with some very few exceptions, seem to be occupied; and not only so, but some of the lots originally intended only for one family, are now split up, divided and subdivided, and contain several habitations in the same lot, and scarcely room enough at that. We find the population coming into this city so great that there scarcely seems to be room, and even our water, in dry seasons, seems to be very scarce, not sufficient to water even the trees that are so necessary to be kept alive, to say nothing of gardens, and flowers, and shrubbery. "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not;" that is, do not be stingy, do not be contracted, do not limit yourselves to a small area of country, but break forth on the right hand and on the left. Already, within the last thirty-two years, we have been fulfilling this commandment. We have stretched forth the gardens of our habitation several hundred miles, in the south especially, and one or two hundred miles in the north, into the Territory of Idaho. Utah does not seem sufficient for us, hence we have built many large towns and villages in Idaho. We have spread forth our towns, our villages and our settlements, to the south for some three hundred or four hundred miles, and even after doing this we find the place is too strait, and the saying is: "Give place to me that I may dwell." We would scarcely suppose that a work of this great and important magnitude would have been accomplished in so short a time as scarcely one-third of a century, when all this great basin—nearly all, with the exception of one or two small portions of the country traversed by Fremont and a few of his followers—was explored and considered an unprofitable desert, considered unfit for the habitation of man, in consequence of the dryness and parched condition of its soil. But the Lord, when He begins to fulfil and accomplish a work among His people, does so by degrees. He did not convert this great American desert, several hundred miles in extent, into a fruitful garden in one day, nor in one year; but in a few years, comparatively speaking, He has accomplished this work, and has done it, too, with an eye to the predictions that were uttered by His servant Isaiah, the Prophet, and His servant David, the Psalmist.

The Sabbath before last I addressed the congregation and spoke of the people inhabiting the great mountain territory, removing. You will recollect this. You know our enemies have had a great many speculations about our moving. A great many have supposed that we would remove to an island of the sea; others have pointed out Vancouver's Island, others Russian America, as it used to be called; others have pointed out Mexico; others the

islands of the Indian Ocean; and others South America, as the future destination of the Latter-day Saints. But Sunday before last I endeavored to point out to you our hopes, our views as contrasted with the views of our enemies, in relation to our future destination. I will repeat again, to bring to the remembrance of the Latter-day Saints, and those who might have been present on that occasion, what was then said. We expect that these mountains will not be the residence of all the Latter-day Saints; we expect that the great majority of the people will emigrate. We want to tell you where our eyes are fixed. As stated in our former discourse, they are fixed upon a land—not in the distant islands of the Indian Ocean, nor in the Pacific Ocean, nor in South America, but our eyes are fixed upon a land on the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and the boundaries of the State of Kansas. We expect to go there just as much as we expect the sun will rise and set. We have no other expectation. We expect to return there just as much as the Jews expect to return to old Jerusalem in the latter days. Perhaps you may inquire if we expect to return as a majority. Yes. Do we expect to return as a great people? Yes. Do we expect to return with our wives and our children? Yes. Do we expect to return in a peaceable manner? Of course. Have you ever seen any other feeling on the part of Latter-day Saints, only to promote peace wherever they may settle? What has been our object from the commencement? Peace and goodwill towards all men.

But perhaps you may still further inquire, concerning our emigration to the eastern boundaries of the State of Kansas, and to the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, what we intend to do in that part of the country? We expect to be farmers, a great many of us. We expect to introduce all kinds of machinery and manufactures. We expect to build mills. We expect to become a very industrious, frugal, economical people. We expect to have our merchandise and our stores and storehouses in that land. We expect to build a great many hundred school-houses in that country, just the same as we have already done in this country, and in the two adjacent Territories, Idaho in the north, and Arizona in the south. We do not calculate to neglect our children in regard to their education. We expect to build a great number of academies or the higher schools, and, besides, a great many school-houses. We expect to erect universities for the still higher branches to be taught. We expect to build many hundreds of meeting-houses, and we expect to be a people very densely located there—not one man taking up six or eight miles of land, and calling it his farm; we do not expect to live in that way, but we expect to settle a very dense settlement in that region of country.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

RELIEF SOCIETY GATHERINGS.**SHEFFIELD CONFERENCE.**

A SPECIAL meeting of the Relief Society of the Sheffield conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was held at the Latter-day Saints' church, corner of Ellesmere and Lyons Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, Friday, August 4th, 1916, at seven p.m., President John Holmes presiding. Sister Ida B. Smith, president of the Relief Societies in the European mission, was in attendance.

After the opening exercises, President John Holmes welcomed those present. He read from I. Corinthians on our duties as officers of the Church, and asked the Spirit of God to help us at all times.

The report for the past six months was then read.

Sister Mary E. Gregory, first counselor, said she felt pleased to be present and welcomed all on behalf of the Relief Society. She said we had done very well as regards work and visiting, but we were trying to do more.

A recitation was given by Sister Gladys Corbett, entitled, "Bruce and the Spider."

Sister Lucy Smith, second counselor, said she was glad to see so many present to hear Sister Ida B. Smith, as she would be able to give us the encouragement we needed in this work.

A quartette was rendered by Sisters Stagg and Wilson, and President John Holmes and Brother Stagg, entitled, "A Temple in Hawaii."

Sister Fanny Bradley, secretary and treasurer, said she felt pleased to be present, but sorry that it would probably be the last time that we should see Sister Ida B. Smith. She certainly had fulfilled an honorable mission, and encouraged us in this great work. The Relief Society work is a missionary labor. She spoke of the failings which we all have, and encouraged all to pray to our heavenly Father to help us in our difficulties, and to do all the good we can.

Sister Laura E. Stagg said she was pleased to meet Sister Ida B. Smith. She had not been attending Relief Society meetings long, but she had had some happy times at these meetings.

President John Holmes rendered a solo, entitled, "Unanswered yet."

President Ida B. Smith then addressed the assembly. She said she felt more than thankful to be present and partake of the spirit which was with us. We are indeed a chosen people, or this spirit would not be with us. If only she had come to partake of the spirit which had been in the meeting from the beginning, she would have felt amply repaid. She referred to the words in the recitation, "I can't." "But," she said, "try," and gave an illustration from a story she had heard the other day. She thanked her heavenly Father that she was a Latter-day Saint, and she wished to live worthy of the gospel. We are none of us, she said,

ignorant of what the Lord wants us to do, and so we cannot sit down and say we have nothing to do. She encouraged all to keep the Word of Wisdom, pay tithing, and have family prayers, night and morning, and to have the gospel taught in our Relief Society meetings. She thanked the sisters for the help which they had given her whilst she had been engaged in this glorious work. The sisters of Great Britain, she said, had done a wonderful work. There are fifty-one Relief Society organizations in Great Britain. She told us that, if anyone does us an injury, we should take no notice of it, for by feeling resentful we lose the spirit of the gospel. She prayed the Lord to bless us and enlighten our minds, that we might accomplish all good, and encouraged us to press forward and work unitedly to make the society a success.

Elder Stephen H. Winter, presiding elder of the Barnsley branch, thanked the Lord for the opportunity to attend this Relief Society meeting, to wish Sister Ida B. Smith God-speed on her way home. He spoke of how the sisters were doing a great work in the Relief Society, and thanked his heavenly Father that He had given the sisters a work to do, through the organization of the Relief Society.

Elder John M. Brown said he was pleased to be present. He had attended only one Relief Society meeting here before, but he had greatly enjoyed it. He spoke of how the Prophet Joseph Smith prophesied that the Relief Society would grow and increase, and that prediction was certainly being fulfilled. This gospel means eternal life. Let us, he said, do our little part to be gentle and calm, and to live in harmony one with the other, and pray for each other.

Sister Laura E. Stagg gave a recitation, and the meeting was brought to a close by singing, and benediction by Elder Wilford F. Burton.

FANNY BRADLEY, Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.

THE Relief Societies of the Birmingham conference met on August 14th, 1916, at eight p.m., in the Latter-day Saints' chapel, Sycamore Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. Four branches were represented, and seventy-eight people were present.

After singing and prayer, Sister Ida B. Smith, president of the Relief Societies of the European mission, explained the purpose of calling the sisters together, stating that when she returned home to Salt Lake City, she would be expected to report and give an account of her labors here, and she would like to hear the reports of the presidents and counselors of all the branches.

Sisters Vale, Smith, and Taylor, of Handsworth; Sisters Griffin and Mason, of Saltley; Sisters Shakespeare and Blakemore, of Sparkbrook; and Sister Pitt, of Walsall, all reported the condition and work of their respective branches, and told of the

many good times they have had together. They expressed their love for the Relief Society work, and hoped for its future growth and development. They also bore strong testimonies to the truth of the gospel, and were proud to be members of the Church.

Brothers Edwards and Collins, and Elders Arthur D. Evans and Herbert P. Haight, accompanied by Brother Walter S. Boyd, sang, "Scatter Sunshine."

Sister Ida B. Smith addressed the meeting, expressing her thankfulness for belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She commented on the reports and humble testimonies of the sisters. She said how grateful she is for the Relief Society, which is the pioneer organization for women in the world; but, she said, since its organization, many hundreds of women's organizations have been formed all over the world. There are 45,000 members in our society, busily engaged in caring for and comforting the poor and the sick, etc.; also, many are expounding and preaching the gospel. Our Relief Society is united with various charitable and women's organizations of the States, and the nations of the world. And in this country we have been working with the Red Cross, and Sisters of Mercy, in providing for the poor and sick. We have a two-fold purpose in uniting with these charitable societies, for besides the benevolent and charitable work, we have carried and laid before them the gospel message. In preparing our boxes, we have exercised care and neatness, so that ours should be known by our work. She then read the minutes of the first Relief Society meeting ever held, and suggested to the sisters that this should be read to their societies once a year. They could read it from the January, 1915, number of the Relief Society magazine. She urged them to secure the March number of the same year. She also asked the sisters not to lose sight of the gospel at their meetings, stating that it should come first and foremost; they should study the Church works, and the sermons that are reported in the papers and conference reports, for they are the word of God. The sewing has its place, but the gospel should always come first. There was never a time when the Relief Societies were more needed than at the present. The members can tract, and explain the gospel, and oft-times the women can meet investigators, and get into homes where the elders cannot. They are also becoming more acquainted by giving good musical programs in the public halls, and singing to the sick and wounded in the convalescent hospitals. She urged the sisters to be humble and prayerful, advising them to hold their meetings and keep together; study the gospel, if nothing else, during their work meeting, if they are out of material.

President James Laird spoke about the good spirit that had attended the meeting, and bore his testimony to the truth of the gospel. After singing, prayer was offered by Joseph F. Smith III.

HERBERT P. HAIGHT, Clerk of Conference.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1916.

EDITORIAL.

VALEDICTORY.

THREE years of rapidly fleeting time have brought me to the point where it is necessary to say goodbye to the elders and saints in the European mission. The duty is one in which joy and sadness are mingled. Presiding over this great mission involves heavy responsibility; but it also brings many compensating rewards. My administration of the affairs of the mission, which began September 30th, 1913, has brought much valuable experience, and has been exceedingly pleasant. I have been led by the inspiration of the Lord in so far as I have been able to obtain it, and I have earnestly sought His assistance upon every question and action. If aught of success has attended my labors, it is due first to the Lord for His Fatherly and merciful care over His work, and secondly, to the elders who have labored throughout the mission, and who have so loyally upheld my hands and endeavored to carry out the policy of the mission; and to the saints also, who have so cheerfully responded to the teachings of the gospel, and faithfully tried to keep the commandments of the Lord. Their daily faith and prayers have been a source of comfort and strength to me. I have been exceedingly fortunate, and very happy, in having my wife and family with me during the whole period. Sister Smith has been a faithful companion, and has ever stood to cheer and encourage me and the other laborers in the vineyard. She has had a large part in the work of the Lord as well, which she has performed with ability. Of the result of her labors in the mission, and the effect of her influence upon the sisters, and upon the brethren, it would, perhaps, be better to let others speak. Nevertheless, it is only just to say, that to her work and interest in the good cause, no small part of the present excellent condition of the mission is due. I may be pardoned if I show a meed of parental pride in the belief that my children have made a good impression upon the minds of the teachers and scholars of the schools they have attended, and that they have shown some evidence of training in a Latter-day Saint family.

I have had good support from all of the conference presidents, of whom there have been fifty-four in the United Kingdom during the three years. Two of them, Presidents Stewart Eccles and John A. Maynes, yielded up their lives while pursuing their labors for the salvation of souls. "And whoso layeth down his life in

my cause, for my name's sake, shall find it again, even life eternal" (Doc. and Cov. 98: 13).

Accompanied generally by one of the brethren of the office, I have visited the conferences in the United Kingdom, with one or two exceptions, twice each year. The kind, even warm, reception accorded us by the elders and saints, upon every occasion, will always be a delight to recall, and the fact that we departed amid expressions of appreciation for our visit, regret at our going, and urgent invitations to come again soon, filled our hearts with love for the saints, and with thankfulness to the Lord.

But one visit was made to the missions on the Continent, which was a most delightful and profitable one, but was abruptly terminated ere completed, by the breaking out of the war, which still continues with such unabated fury. Of the world of misery and suffering, plague and pestilence, sorrow and weeping, poverty and destitution, wounds and death, caused by the dreadful conflict, it is needless to speak, for these things are as well known to you as to me. All this but fulfils prophecy, and presages the near approach of the coming of our Lord.

A large number of our brethren have died on the battlefields. We need not mourn for them that died in the Lord, "for they shall rise from the dead and shall not die after." Let them that remain be comforted, and rest in the hope of the promise of a deathless reunion, and an "inheritance before the Lord, in the Holy City."

In consequence of the war, the French mission has been dissolved, the elders having been taken from France, Belgium and Germany. President Hyrum W. Valentine and wife, and Elder Rae P. Stratford alone remain at Basel. The former stands faithfully at his post, and has been in the field nearly five years. He is now looking after that part of the French mission that formerly belonged to the Swiss and German mission. The saints in Belgium are in the care of the president of the Netherlands mission.

The Scandinavian mission has been, and is still presided over by Elder Hans J. Christiansen. Until very recently Elder Theodore Tobiason had charge of the Swedish mission, and Elder LeGrand Richards presided in the Netherlands. They have been honorably released, their successors being Elders Andrew P. Anderson, and John A. Butterworth, respectively. Under the wise and faithful supervision of these brethren, the work in those countries has prospered. The Church has made splendid growth, and the saints are securely fortified in the faith and good works of the gospel. The Lord's hand has been over His saints there, as elsewhere, and we know He will continue to take care of them and inspire the brethren who preside over the Church in those lands.

President Nicholas G. Smith has kept the South African mission moving steadily forward. He sends most encouraging reports of the work in that far-off field.

The traveling elders now in the mission are only nineteen per

cent. of the number that was in the field in January, 1910. In the British mission a number equal only to fourteen per cent. of those here in January, 1910, remains. In consequence of this great decrease of missionaries, I shall give no statistics, for it is obvious that, in the aggregate, a very large decrease must be shown; but I can say with confidence—and it gives me much gratification—that the work that has been, and is being accomplished by the elders, individually, is equal to that performed by the individual missionary of other years, even when they outnumbered, by nearly eight to one, the present force.

Notwithstanding these unfavorable conditions, the saints are generally very faithful. Some branches have been closed, while others are ably presided over by local brethren, and the work is going on splendidly.

Much of the unity and strength of the saints is due to the activities of the Relief Societies, which were never better organized, or more energetic and efficient than at the present time. The members are enthusiastic, and through their efforts many have been blessed.

I believe that never before have the saints kept the Word of Wisdom, paid their tithes and offerings, and endeavored to do just what is right, with greater zeal and faithfulness than they are doing now.

Right here let me sound a warning, and give a word of counsel. This is a period of plentiful work and good wages. None who desire to work need be out of remunerative employment. Now is the time to save. The saints will be wise if they practice careful economy and some self-denial in things that are unnecessary and harmful. Spend less on amusements, and picnics and travel, and forego many luxuries that can easily be dispensed with, and lay aside the money that might be spent for these things. Adversity and business depression often follow periods of prosperity. Special distress and hard times invariably follow wars. The vast destruction of the resources of the countries, the almost incalculable debts incurred, which must be paid, and the burden of which falls heaviest upon the working people, the immense loss of life and property, will inevitably recoil with disastrous effects upon the nations engaged in war. As the present war is the most gigantic, and, consequently, the most fearfully destructive in history, so the evil results that must follow will be proportionately greater. Therefore, let me again advise the saints, and all whom my words may reach, to economize, sacrifice, forego all needless pleasures, save your means, and deposit them in secure banks. Look ahead; have a keen eye to the future. In the day of prosperity, prepare for adversity. I know this is good counsel, and those who receive and follow it will be wise indeed; while if any neglect this course, they may live to realize, when too late to remedy, their mistake, and repent of their folly.

Only one new property has been acquired in the past three years, namely, a comfortable meeting-house for the saints at Lowestoft, Norwich conference.

The present turmoil has largely diverted the attention of the enemies of the Church; therefore, while the rest of Europe are at war, the saints have had a period of peace. Occasionally the public press has broken out with a foolish rehash of the age-old, and oft-refuted, absurdities circulated by the slanderer and defamer of the Latter-day Saints, and, as usual, with a few honorable exceptions, it has refused to publish our reply. Some good to the Church can be traced directly to each of these onslaughts. Thus the Lord always overrules.

Our relations with all with whom we have done business, have been of the most cordial character. Business dealings with the Latter-day Saints is sought by many, and much appreciated by those who obtain it. The business integrity of the Church and her representatives is held in the highest regard by all who are in any degree acquainted with them.

My administration has been particularly blessed as the result of most faithful and efficient companions who have assisted me in the office. Each secretary of the mission—and there have been four—and each elder that has had charge of the shipping matters, has been all that the most exacting could wish for. Elder John E. Cottam, who at present attends to both departments, is method and care personified. Elder Thomas W. Brookbank wrote for the *Millennial Star* from April, 1913, to October, 1914, and since then Elder J. M. Sjordahl has had that responsible duty. Under their able pens the brightness of the *Star* has not dimmed; but, on the contrary, its glory has increased, and it continues to be the most lustrous luminary among the Church periodicals. It is a champion of the faith. Its light makes plain the truth, pierces the darkness, and reveals the error of false doctrines and creeds; it uncovers the corruptions of the world, and makes known the remedy; it penetrates the mask of the hypocrite and false teacher, and points the path of salvation to the erring and repentant. It is the receptacle of accurate historical data. It is loved by most of the saints, and should be a household companion to all, in every Latter-day Saint home in the British mission. To me it is as dear as a personal friend. In appearance—like its namesakes in the heavens—it never changes. Owing to the efficiency of Mr. James Foggo and Mr. William Mercer, who have charge of setting the type and printing it, it comes forth from week to week, shining in its mechanical dress, in as near perfection as it is possible for the printer's art to attain.

After this issue of the *Millennial Star*, the name of another, who is eminently worthy, will be inserted as editor, printer and publisher. Brother J. M. Sjordahl will continue, for a season, to write for the *Star*. Its readers are, therefore, assured of the same

high-class reading as that, which has proved so inspiring and helpful to them in the past.

Both Sister Smith and I, depart, I sincerely believe, taking with us the love and confidence of all the saints and numerous good friends. We certainly have an abiding affection for all of them.

I turn the mission over to my successor stronger, spiritually and financially, than I received it from my faithful predecessors, that is, stronger as the result of three years of steady, normal growth and progress.

The future of the mission God alone may know, but in the hands of Elder George F. Richards, a Patriarch and one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ, none need fear for its welfare, but all may rest in confident assurance that its advancement will be continuous, and that it will be safely guided on towards the destiny God has decreed for it. To know Elder Richards is to love him. He is a true servant of the Lord, a man without guile. I congratulate the mission upon his selection, and felicitate him on being honored with the presidency of the European mission.

Brethren and sisters, I bid you all farewell. I shall entertain strong hopes of seeing many of you in Zion; and those whom it may not be my privilege to meet again in mortality, may our desire be mutual that we meet and renew associations in the Celestial Kingdom, and may God give us strength and faith, that, through obedience and righteousness, we may be worthy of that glorious reward. By virtue of my office and calling, I bless the traveling elders, the presiding and local priesthood, and the saints, individually, and also in their family and community relationships. I pray for the friends and investigators of the gospel, that they may come to see the truth and be given courage to receive it, and thereby place themselves in the sure way of salvation. May the peace of heaven rest upon you. Be faithful, weary not; faint not. Love one another, be merciful and forgiving. Remember your prayers and all duties. Endure with patience all things, even to the end, and God, our heavenly Father, and the sanctified saints, will be waiting with open arms to welcome you to your eternal and glorious home.

HYRUM M. SMITH.

A WORD OF FAREWELL TO THE SISTERS.

OUR missionary labors in this country are now drawing to a close. We will soon take up our journey homeward, there to resume our associations with our families and friends in Zion, and pursue the duties and labors that await us there. Our sojourn in England covers a period of nearly three years, and almost the entire time has been filled with joy, and has brought to us many valuable experiences. Our lives have been enriched through the

acquaintance and association of the saints and friends of this land, and departing from them is fraught with sad and soulful emotions.

To the sisters of the Relief Societies of the mission I wish to express my love, for they have all become dear to me. The loyal way they have responded to every call; the earnest support they have given me; the undivided interest they have taken in the work of the societies, is appreciated by me more than I can tell. I thank them, every one, with all my heart.

In the past two years we have seen a great reawakening of interest in the Relief Society cause. The organizations, some of which had become more or less listless, have been aroused and rejuvenated. Many new organizations have been effected, so that the Societies, according to the last reports, number 101 in the European mission, having an enrollment of 2,146, all alive, active, and united in membership. Fifty-one of these societies are in the United Kingdom, and the other fifty in the branches on the Continent. By combined and united effort, a splendid work is being done by the sisters. The inspiration of the Lord has been upon them. They have assumed their responsibilities gladly, and have labored with zeal. I think we can all be justly proud, and humbly grateful to God, for the very substantial progress that has been made. I rejoice in the fact that the Relief Societies are so well organized, strong, united and active. There is every reason to hope that the work will continue to increase, and become more and more a power for good, in advancing the cause of justice and righteousness and mercy in the earth, and in ameliorating the distress and suffering among the children of men.

Through our association with the Red Cross and other influential committees, the Latter-day Saints have become much better known, and our organizations, and the object and character of the work we are endeavoring to accomplish, is far better understood. The support given by the Relief Societies, to the above-named committees, has drawn from them warm commendation. The assistance we have rendered to many who have been reduced to suffering and want, as a result of the war, has been appreciated, and has, no doubt, relieved much distress.

In some places the Societies have been invited to furnish the program of important gatherings; also to give song services in the hospitals. Occasionally members have been asked to address outside work parties upon our faith, and upon Salt Lake City and her people. In certain communities the sisters have been requested by members of other denominations to assist in laying out the dead, caring for the sick, and helping the poor. To these calls they have always responded. The field in which to labor is extensive, and I hope that all the sisters will take advantage of every opportunity to make themselves known and their influence felt in as wide a circle as possible. Now that the elders are so few, there

is need of the help of the women, who might find time to distribute a few tracts occasionally. This has been done in a few instances with splendid effect. Many doors have been opened, for the preaching of the gospel, in this way.

I feel that I must leave on record a word concerning Durham House. I have learned to love the dear, old place. It has afforded us comfort and shelter, and has been a blessed home. Three years of the happiest associations of our lives have been passed here. Brotherly and sisterly love has been shown in the kind, patient, and considerate conduct of those who have resided here. Nothing has been too much trouble for the elders if they thought it would be for my pleasure. Sisters Harriet Lowther, Evelyn Short, and Annie McWilliam, the girls who have assisted in taking care of us, have been loyal and faithful to their duties. They and those in the book and printing departments have responded to every request with a cheerfulness that made it appear as though they were the recipients, and not the doer of the favor.

The saints who have gathered here weekly to attend the meetings, and the sisters who have met in the sewing circle of the Relief society, have become almost like members of my own family. I truly love them all.

The protecting and healing power of the Lord has been over us. In his Fatherly love and mercy we have been preserved. Durham House will never be forgotten, and I shall often return, in spirit, for a visit here, and I shall live over again, in memory, the associations which have become sacred to me.

May the Lord bless you in the future even more than you have been blessed in the past! Diligently strive to be united, and work in love and harmony, as true daughters of our Heavenly Father should, and you are bound to grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth. I shall ever take an interest in you, and I shall rejoice in your success and development. God bless you as mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters, and saints of the Most High. Be true to the gospel. Hold on to the faith with the tenacity of life, and life eternal will be your glorious reward. I bid you all an affectionate goodbye.

IDA B. SMITH.

It has been estimated that there are nearly 1,000,000 Jews fighting in the various armies distributed throughout Europe. Their record is a good one. No better proof need be given than that of the Zion Mule Corps. Practically all the men forming this corps were Eastern refugees, of whom but few could speak English. They were very anxious, however, to have the opportunity of showing what they could do to help the British flag. It was they who carried munitions on the blood-strewn slopes of Gallipoli, and it is no exaggeration to say, that no body of men in the country has received a higher percentage of military honors.

IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY.

LANCE-CORPORAL WILLIAM HENRY LICKESS was killed in France, July 19th, 1916, while serving his King and country. Deceased was born October 8th, 1889, at Stockton, Durham county, England, and baptized April 18th, 1902, at Middlesbrough, by Elder David Ririe, and confirmed the same date by Elder Henry Bolingbroke, and up to the time of his death was a faithful Latter-day Saint. He is the son of Brother John George Lickess, a faithful old member of the Middlesbrough branch, and Mary A. Lickess, of E. Carter Street, Middlesbrough, who deeply mourn his loss. He is also deeply mourned by the Saints and friends of the Middlesbrough branch, and all who knew him.

WILLIAM DERBYSHIRE.

PROFESSOR EVAN STEPHENS RESIGNS.

PROFESSOR EVAN STEPHENS, conductor of the Salt Lake tabernacle choir, has tendered his resignation from that position in a letter received July 22nd, at the office of the First Presidency. The matter has been carefully considered by the Church officials, and after much deliberation, Professor Stephens' resignation from the musical organization has been reluctantly accepted. Professor A. C. Lund, now in charge of the musical department of the Brigham Young University, Provo, has been tendered the leadership of the choir as Professor Stephens' successor, but he has not yet given his answer, withholding it until he has consulted with the Brigham Young University board.

Professor Stephens was born in Pencader, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, June 28th, 1854. At the age of twelve he emigrated to Utah, taking passage in the sailing vessel *Arkwright*, at Liverpool, traveling across the plains with an ox-team company, and walking most of the way. Settling with his family at Willard, Boxelder county, Utah, as a boy of fourteen, he became deeply interested in music, connecting himself with the ward choir. In 1879, he was called to Logan to be organist of the tabernacle choir, and also opened up classes in music there. In 1882, he moved to Salt Lake City, and began the study of the pipe organ under Professor Joseph J. Daynes, later taught music in the state university, and spent a year of study at the New England Conservatory of music.

Returning he organized various musical societies, among them the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir in 1890. The latter organization, under his leadership, has toured many of the states of the Union, has competed in many musical contests, has participated in many programs with the greatest singers of the world, and has become one of the best known musical organizations in the country.

Professor Stephens also introduced the study of music into the public schools of the city, having charge of instruction in this department for two years.

Professor Lund is the son of President and Mrs. Anthon H. Lund. He was born at Ephraim, in 1871, attended the public schools of Utah, the Brigham Young University, and later spent three years in the Royal Conservatory of Leipzig, Germany, graduating from that institution in 1894. He then studied for one year in Paris, and one year in London. Later, he was made professor of music at the Brigham Young University.—*Deseret News*.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Releases and Departures.—Elders Arnison Hoskisson and Richard E. Berrett have been honorably released from their labors in the British mission, and sailed for home August 19th, 1916, per s.s. *New York*.

Baptisms.—A baptismal service was held at the Swan Baths, Norwich (Norwich conference), on Thursday, August 10th, 1916, when one soul was added to the fold of Christ. President Francis M. Skinner officiated.

On Monday, August 7th, 1916, a baptismal service was held at Portsmouth (London conference), when one soul was added to the fold of Christ. Elder William J. Loosle officiated.

DIED.

BLACKBURN.—At Burnley, August 2nd, 1916, George Reginald, son of George W. and Emily Grace Blackburn. Deceased was born August 28th, 1912. Funeral was held August 5th, 1916, Elders George M. Tonks and Henry H. Parker officiating.

BURT.—On August 7th, 1916, Sister Isabella Burt, of the Holloway branch (London conference). Deceased was born May 28th, 1837, at London, Middlesex; baptized by Elder B. J. Stewart on November 1st, 1896, and confirmed by Elder J. W. Stringfellow. Sister Burt was a faithful Latter-day Saint to the end.

CONTENTS:

Discourse by Apostle Orson Pratt	529	Sisters... ..	540
Relief Society Gatherings	533	In the Service of His Country ...	543
Editorials: Valedictory	536	Professor Evan Stephens Re-	
A Word of Farewell to the		signs	543
		From the Mission Field	544

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